

SEP 23 1999

1168



Department Of  
Environmental Management  
601 Texas Street  
Fairfield, CA • 94533

Planning Division  
(707) 421-6765

September 21, 1999

Rick Breitenbach  
CalFed Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Breitenbach:

On September 14, 1999, the Solano County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution (attached) which we would like to be included as comments to the CalFed Revised Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR. These comments focus on the following issues:

- A guarantee that there will be adequate freshwater flows into the Bay.
- Water conservation by all users.
- A fair share of funding for Bay Area environmental restoration efforts.
- Protection of agricultural lands and operations.

Please free to call me at (707) 421-6765 if you have any questions. We look forward to reviewing your response to our comments in the Final Draft document.

Sincerely,

Birgitta Corsello  
Director of Environmental Management

Attachment

Cc: Supervisor Steve Kinsey  
Marin County Board of Supervisors  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94903

Association of Bay Area Governments  
P.O. Box 2050  
Oakland, CA 94604-2050

Bay Conservation and Development Commission  
30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 2011  
San Francisco, CA 94102

1168(2)

**RESOLUTION NO. 99-216**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF SOLANO COUNTY  
TO CALFED URGING INCREASED PROTECTION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY-  
DELTA ESTUARY AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS WITHIN SOLANO COUNTY**

---

**WHEREAS**, the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary and the diverse ecosystems it supports are fundamental to the environmental well being of the entire Bay Area; and

**WHEREAS**, much of the Bay Area's economic vitality is supported by the Bay-Delta estuary, including industries such as agriculture, tourism, recreational and commercial fishing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bay-Delta estuary's health is in rapid decline, manifested by various indicators including dramatic reductions in fish populations, and due to a variety of devastating impacts, including the diversion of over 50 percent of its flows from the watershed's rivers, the loss of over 85 percent of historic wetlands, and the discharge of 40,000 tons of pollutants into the Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1994 the Federal Government and the State of California, in conjunction with agricultural, urban and environmental stakeholders, have undertaken an effort to address the remarkably complex water resource issues of the Bay-Delta ecosystem through a process known as CALFED; and

**WHEREAS**, agriculture is a major industry in Solano County and is directly dependant upon the land which is available for production; and

**WHEREAS**, the CALFED project will have direct impacts on agriculture within Solano County in terms of both water distribution for agricultural use, and the removal from production of prime agricultural lands for purposes such as ecosystem restoration, levee system improvements, and water storage and conveyance; and

**WHEREAS**, in the CALFED process the current public comment period for the Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS provides a critical opportunity for input on the issues affecting the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary and productive agricultural lands within Solano County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED**, that the Solano County Board of Supervisors does hereby identify that the following essential elements must be incorporated into future policies and programs undertaken by the CALFED process:

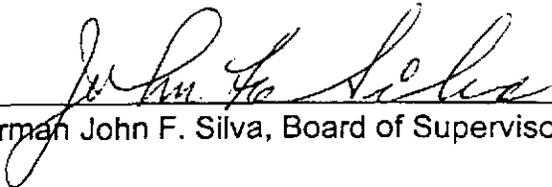
- A guarantee that there will be adequate freshwater flows into the Bay – The San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary's historic freshwater flows have been reduced by half. Currently there exists a need for science-based standards that establish minimum flows of freshwater into the Bay. Adequate flows will benefit the entire estuary in diverse ways, including improving water quality, supporting biological diversity, and the health of all of the Bay-Delta estuary's ecosystems.

- Water conservation by all users – Equitable water conservation practices must be required and enforced for all users throughout California. Managing demand through conservation practices and greater water use efficiency can eliminate or substantially reduce the need to construct new storage facilities. Until conservation practices and demand management have been implemented and monitored, the construction of new storage facilities should not be initiated.
- A fair share of funding for Bay Area environmental restoration efforts – The EPA's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), BCDC's San Francisco Bay Plan, and the RWQCB's Bay Basin Plan all establish numerous beneficial measures that must be taken to protect and restore habitat and improve fish and wildlife in the Bay-Delta estuary. Of the most recent funding package only 5% came to projects in the region. Funding to implement these recommended programs must be brought up to levels that are appropriately proportional to budgets for environmental restoration in other parts of the State.
- Protection of agricultural lands and operations – Adequate mitigation must be provided to address the impacts resulting from the conversion of productive farmland to non-agricultural uses. An equitable amount of water resources must remain available for agricultural users in the Bay-Delta region.

\*\*\*\*\*

Passed and adopted by the Solano County Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting on September 14, 1999, by the following vote:

|          |             |  |
|----------|-------------|--|
| AYES:    | Supervisors | <u>Carroll, Kondylis, Kromm, Thomson, and Chairman Silva</u> |
| NOES:    | Supervisors | <u>None</u>  |
| ABSTAIN: | Supervisors | <u>None</u>  |
| ABSENT:  | Supervisors | <u>None</u>  |

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairman John F. Silva, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:  
Michael D. Johnson, Clerk  
of the Board of Supervisors

This instrument is a  
correct copy of the original  
on file in this office.

By:   
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Maggie Jimenez, Deputy Clerk  
 Reggi Blancett, Deputy Clerk

ATTEST:  
 Michael D. Johnson, Clerk of  
 the Board of Supervisors of  
 the County of Solano, State  
 of California  
 By: 